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I AM indebted to a correſpondent for the following allegory. The manner in which it is written, and the moral it contains, will be a better recommendation of it than any compliment of mine. I ſhall therefore lay it before my readers without farther preface.

PROSPERITY and ADVERSITY, the daughters of PROVIDENCE, were ſent to the houſe of a rich Phænician merchant, named VELASCO, whoſe reſidence was at Tyre, the capital city of that kingdom.

PROSPERITY, the eldeſt, was beautiful as the morning, and chearful as the ſpring: but ADVERSITY was ſorrowful and ill-favoured.

VELASCO

VELASCO had two ſons, FELIX and URANIO. They were both bred to commerce, though liberally educated, and had lived together from their infancy in the ſtricteſt harmony and friendſhip. But Love, before whom all the affections of the ſoul are as the traces of a ſhip upon the ocean, which remain only for a moment, threatened in an evil hour to ſet them at variance; for both were become enamoured with the beauties of PROSPERITY. The nymph, like one of the daughters of men, gave encouragement to each by turns; but to avoid a particular declaration, ſhe avowed a reſolution never to marry, unleſs her ſiſter, from whom ſhe ſaid it was impoſſible for her to be long ſeparated, was married at the ſame time.

VELASCO, who was no ſtranger to the paſſions of his ſons, and who dreaded every thing from their violence, to prevent conſequences, obliged them by his authority to decide their pretenſions by lots; each previouſly engaging in a ſolemn oath to marry the nymph that ſhould fall to his ſhare. The lots were accordingly drawn; and PROSPERITY became the wife of FELIX, and ADVERSITY of URANIO.

SOON after the celebration of theſe nuptials VELASCO died, having bequeathed to his eldeſt ſon FELIX the houſe wherein he dwelt, together with the greateſt part of his large fortune and effects.

THE huſband of PROSPERITY was ſo tranſported with the gay diſpoſition and enchanting beauties of his bride, that he cloathed her in gold and ſilver, and adorned her with jewels of ineſtimable value. He built a palace for her in the woods; he made rivers in his gardens, and beautified their banks with temples and pavilions. He entertained at his table the nobles of the land,

delighting

delighting their ears with muſic, and their eyes with magnificence. But his kindred he beheld as ſtrangers, and the companions of his youth paſſed by him unregarded. His brother alſo became hateful in his ſight, and in proceſs of time he commanded the doors of his houſe to be ſhut againſt him.

But as the ſtream flows from it's channel and loſes itſelf among the vallies, unleſs confined by mounds; ſo alſo will the current of fortune be diſſipated, unleſs bounded by œconomy. In a few years the eſtate of Felix was waſted by extravagance, his merchandize failed him by neglect, and his effects were ſeized by the mercileſs hands of creditors. He applied himſelf for ſupport to the nobles and great men whom he had feaſted and made preſents to, but his voice was as the voice of a ſtranger, and they remembred not his face. The friends whom he had neglected derided him in their turn, his wife alſo inſulted him, and turned her back upon him and fled. Yet was his heart ſo bewitched with her ſorceries, that he purſued her with entreaties, till by her haſte to abandon him, her maſk fell off, and diſcovered to him a face as withered and deformed, as before it had appeared youthful and engaging.

What became of him afterwards tradition does not relate with certainty. It is believed that he fled into Egypt, and lived precariouſly on the ſcanty benevolence of a few friends, who had not totally deſerted him, and that he died in a ſhort time, wretched and an exile.

Let us now return to Uranio, who, as we have already obſerved, had been driven out of doors by his brother Felix. Adversity, though hateful to his heart, and a ſpectre to his eyes, was the conſtant attendant

tendant upon his ſteps: and to aggravate his ſorrow, he received certain intelligence that his richeſt veſſel was taken by a Sardinian pirate; that another was loſt upon the Lybian Syrtes, and, to compleat all, that the banker with whom the greateſt part of his ready money was entruſted, had deſerted his creditors and retired into Sicily. Collecting therefore the ſmall remains of his fortune, he bid adieu to Tyre, and, led by ADVERSITY through unfrequented roads and foreſts overgrown with thickets, he came at laſt to a ſmall village at the foot of a mountain. Here they took up their abode for ſome time; and ADVERSITY, in return for all the anxiety he had ſuffered, ſoftening the ſeverity of her looks, adminiſtred to him the moſt faithful counſel, weaning his heart from the immoderate love of earthly things, and teaching him to revere the Gods, and to place his whole truſt and happineſs in their government and protection. She humanized his ſoul, made him modeſt and humble, taught him to compaſſionate the diſtreſſes of his fellow creatures, and enclined him to relieve them.

"I AM ſent, ſaid ſhe, by the Gods to thoſe only "whom they love: for I not only train them up by my "ſevere diſcipline to future glory, but alſo prepare "them to receive with a greater reliſh all ſuch moderate "enjoyments, as are not inconſiſtent with this proba-"tionary ſtate. As the ſpider, when aſſailed, ſeeks "ſhelter in it's inmoſt web, ſo the mind which I afflict, "contacts it's wandering thoughts, and flies for happi-"neſs to itſelf. It was I who raiſed the characters of "Cato, Socrates and Timoleon to ſo divine a height, "and ſet them up as guides and examples to every future "age. PROSPERITY, my ſmiling, but treacherous ſiſ-

"ter,

" ter, too frequently delivers thoſe whom ſhe has ſe-
" duced to be ſcourged by her cruel followers, AN-
" GUISH and DESPAIR: while ADVERSITY never fails
" to lead thoſe who will be inſtructed by her, to the
" bliſsful habitations of TRANQUILITY and CONTENT."

URANIO liſtened to her words with great attention; and as he looked earneſtly on her face, the deformity of it ſeemed inſenſibly to decreaſe. By gentle degrees his averſion to her abated; and at laſt, he gave himſelf wholly up to her counſel and direction. She would often repeat to him the wiſe maxim of the philoſopher, " That thoſe, who want the feweſt things, approach " neareſt to the Gods, who want nothing." She admoniſhed him to turn his eyes to the many thouſands beneath him, inſtead of gazing on the few who live in pomp and ſplendor; and in his addreſſes to the Gods, inſtead of ſupplicating for riches and popularity, to pray only for a virtuous mind, a quiet ſtate, an unblameable life, and a death full of good hopes.

FINDING him to be every day more and more compoſed and reſigned, though neither enamoured of her face, nor delighted with her ſociety, ſhe at laſt addreſſed him in the following manner.

" As gold is purged and refined from droſs by the
" fire, ſo is ADVERSITY ſent by PROVIDENCE to try and
" improve the virtue of mortals. The end obtained, my
" taſk is finiſhed; and I now leave you, to go and give
" an account of my charge. Your brother, whoſe lot was
" PROSPERITY, and whoſe condition you ſo much en-
" vied, after having experienced the error of his choice,
" is at laſt releaſed by death from the moſt wretched of
" lives. Happy has it been for URANIO, that his lot
" was ADVERSITY, whom if he remembers as he
" ought, his life will be honourable, and his death
" happy."

As